

1

Kio Shimoku

# GENSHIKEN

The Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture

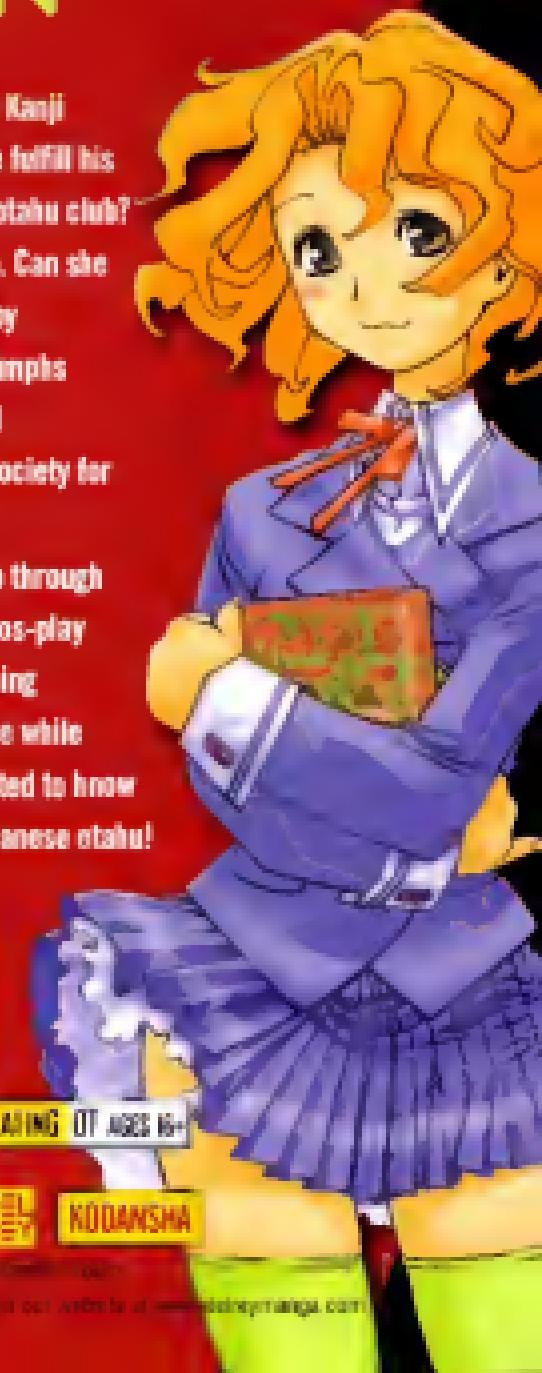


# ANIME OBSESSION

It's the spring of freshman year, and Kanji Sasahara is in a quandary. Should he fulfill his long-cherished dream of joining an otaku club? Sahi Kasuhabe also faces a dilemma. Can she overturn her boyfriend, anime fanboy Nahoto, into a normal guy? Kanji triumphs where Sahi fails when both Kanji and Nahoto sign up for Gomshiken: The Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture.

Undeterred, Sahi chases Nahoto through various activities of the club, from cos-play and comic conventions to video gaming and collecting anime figures—all the while discovering more than she ever wanted to know about the humorous world of the Japanese otaku!

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after the story!



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# GENSHIKEN

1

KIO SHIMOKU

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY  
David Ury

LETTERED BY  
Michaelis/Carpelis Design



BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

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Names, characters, places, and incidents are  
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# GENSHIKEN



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CHAPTER 1 -  
**GENSHIKEN**

鬼の猫  
研究会  
部  
日本刀研究会

LEAPS OF THE  
WORLD CLUB

日本刀研究会

JOHNSON  
THEORY CLUB

CROSSWORD  
CLUB

WORLD PEACE  
CLUB

CLUB

SPRING...

CLUB

WORLD CLUB

CLUB, NIGHT'S POSITION  
and more...



THIS IS KENJI  
ISHII.  
HE'S A LITTLE  
EXCITED TODAY





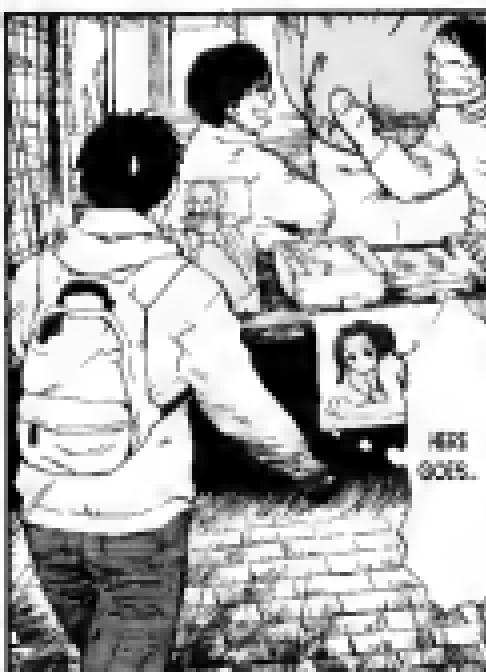


THAT'S BECAUSE THE GUY SHE'S IN LOVE WITH IS IN OTAKU.



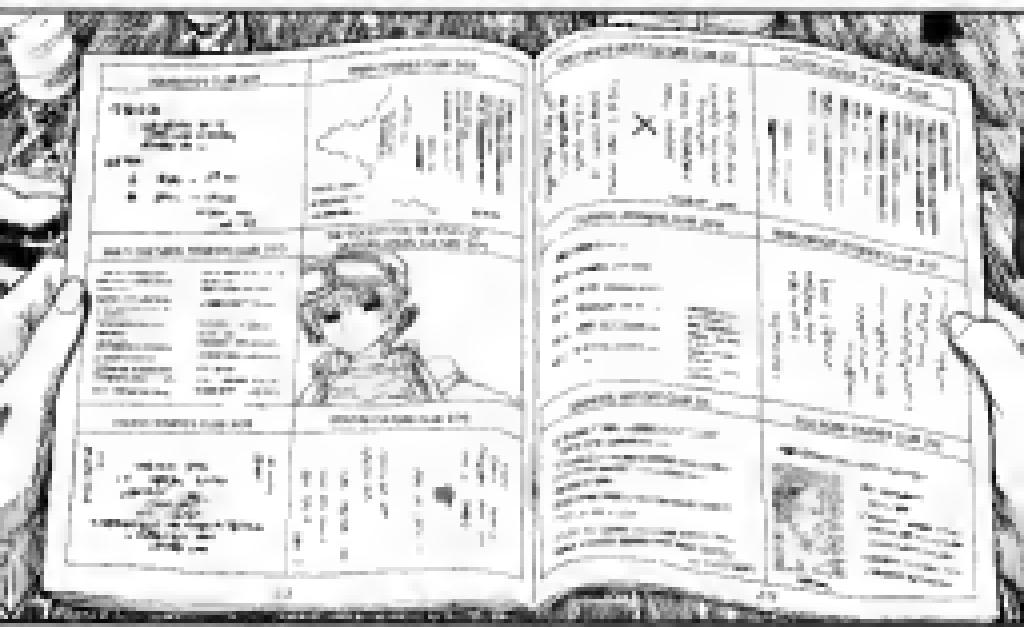
YEAH, I GUESS IT WOULD BE.

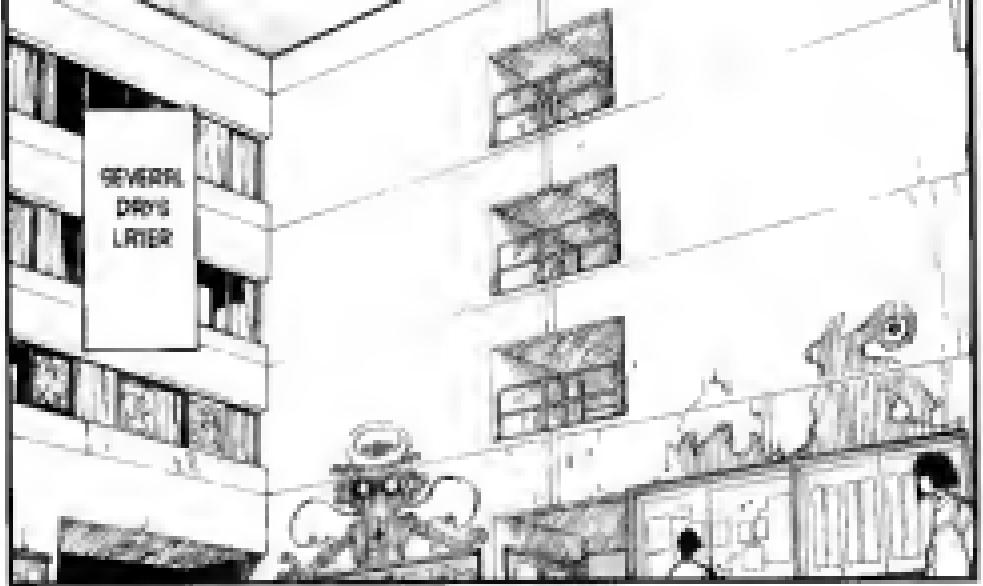














OH,  
JUST  
LIKE  
ME.

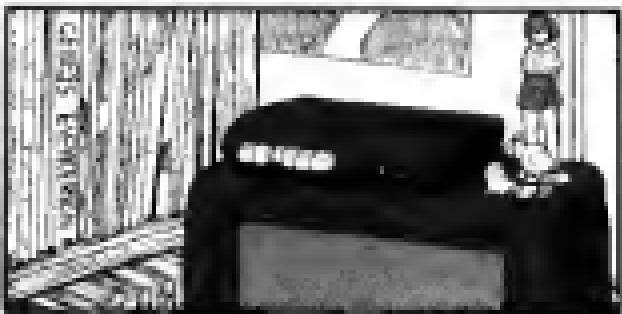
NO...  
I'M A  
FREESKATER.

OH, YOU  
MUST BE  
ONE OF  
THE UPPER  
CLASSMENT!













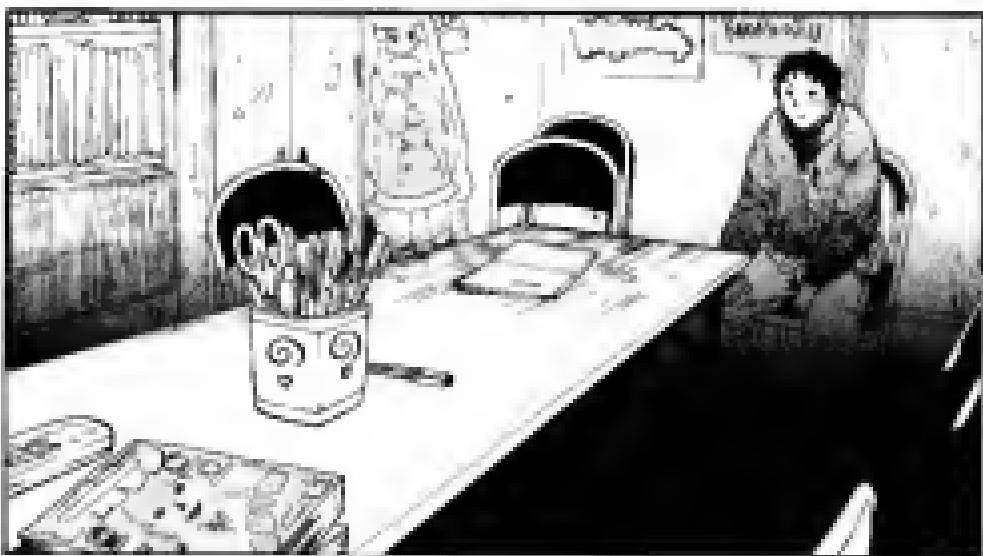


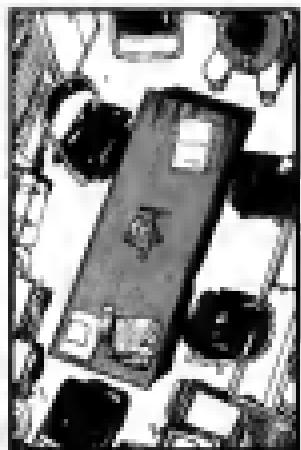
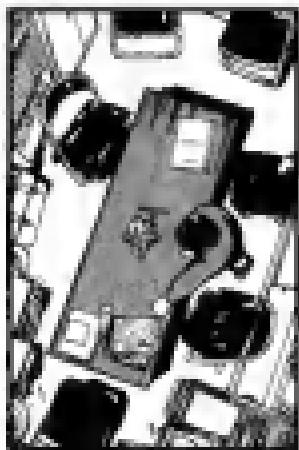
I'M SURE ONE OF THE OTHER GUYS WILL BE BACK SOON.

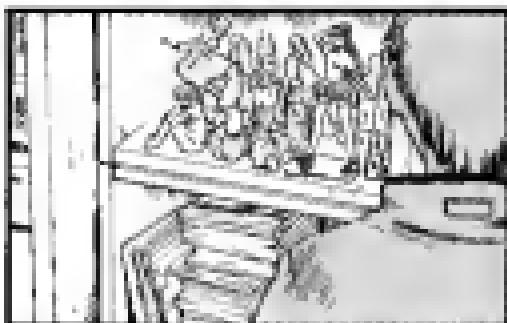


I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DECIDE ON THIS CLUMP

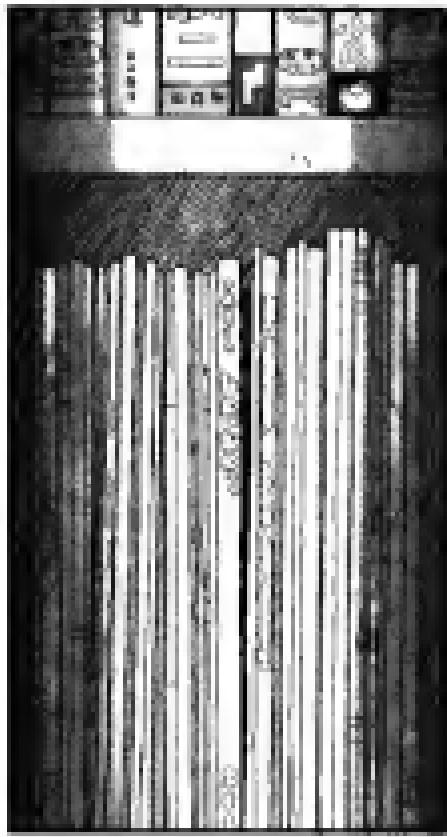
MAM, MAM... I JUST KIND OF LIKED THE LUD-BROCK ATMOSPHERE.

























# UPPER PARK KANJI

## PROFILE

**KANJI SASAHARA**  
BORN JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
BLOOD TYPE B

FAVORITE ANIMES  
PANTHER VS PANTHER  
BERSEKER

FAVORITE ANIME  
PATLABER

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME  
DRAGON QUEST 3  
THE CHAMP OF FIGHTERS 95

FAVORITE FIGHT GAME CHARACTERS  
YAGAMI KUN  
FUCHIGORI  
ERIC  
ZEBEL  
BISHAMON  
THE BEHEADER

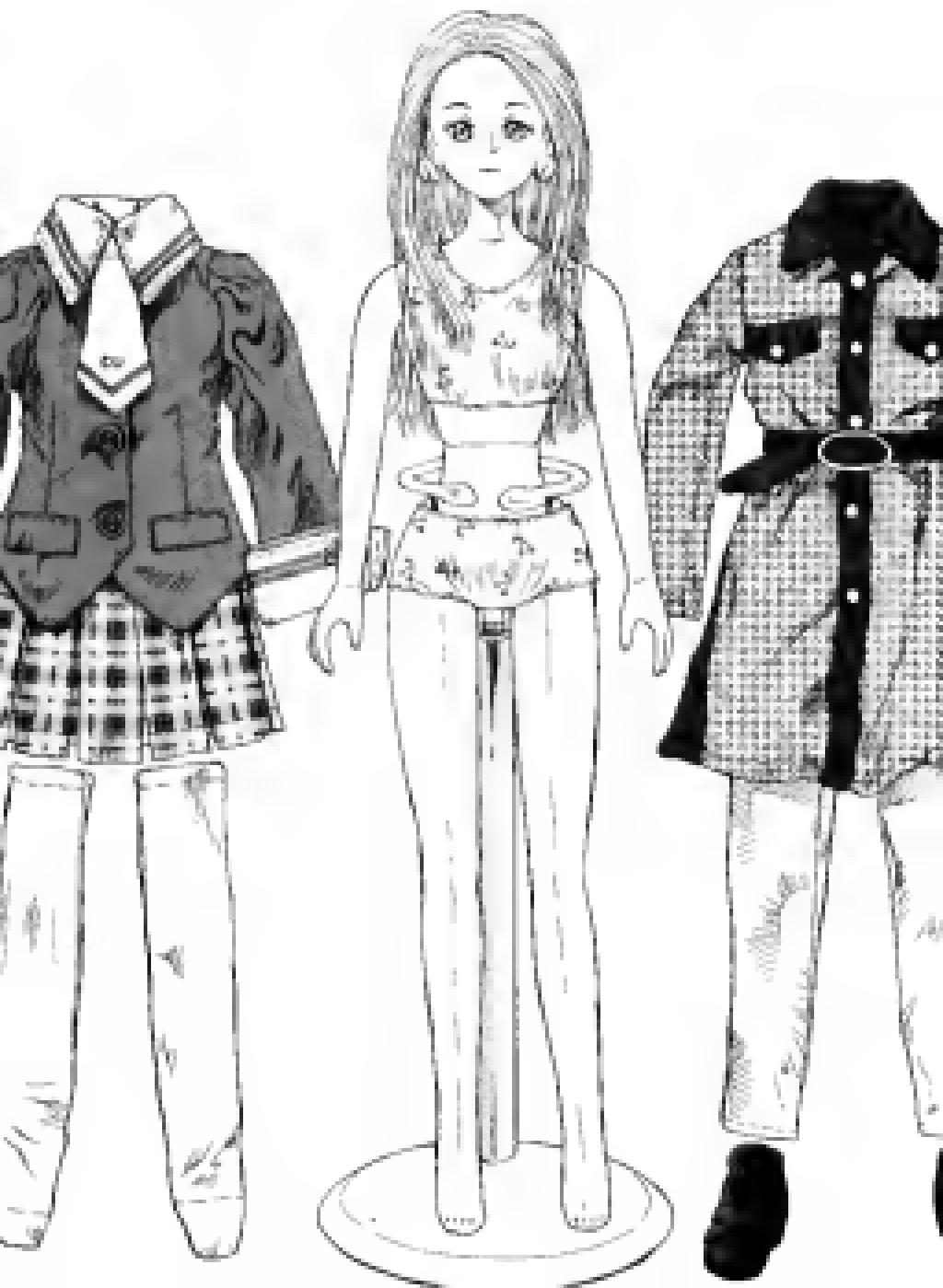
THOSE ARE THE CURRENTLY CHOSEN AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE ACTUALS. TRUST ME.



CRYING OVER SPILT MILK

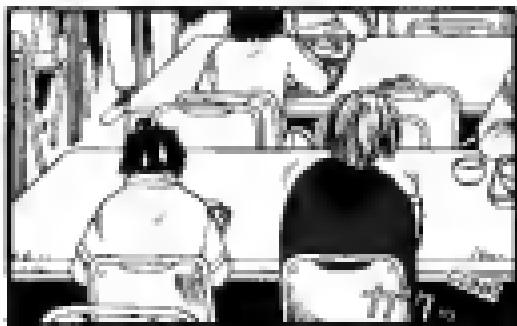


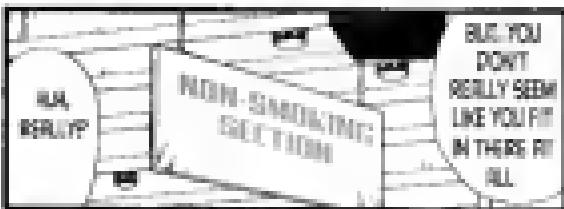
CHAPTER 2  
PREPARE TO BE PERSECUTED...

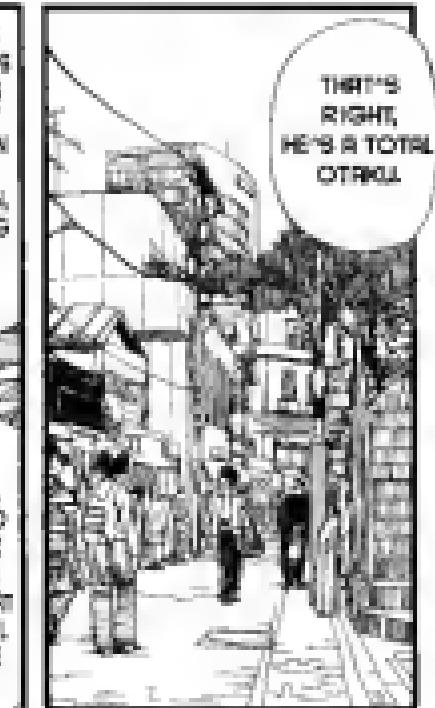


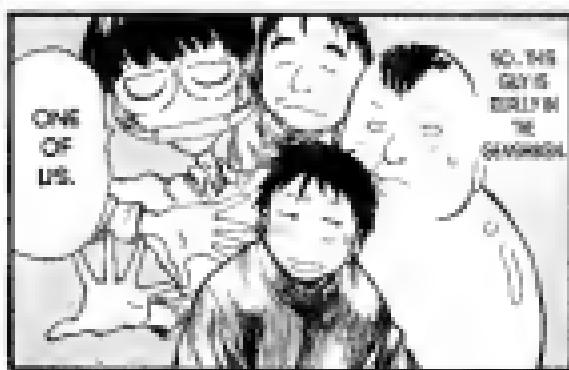












THE  
SHMEE CLUB  
IS AFTER  
KOUSAKU.

HUMP



YEAH.

YOU  
MEAN  
THEY  
WANT  
HIM TO  
JOIN?

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN  
THEY'RE  
"PATTER-  
HUMP"



BESIDES,  
IT'S NOT  
LIKE HE  
CAN'T BE  
IN BOTH.

WHO  
CARES, LET  
HIM CHOOSE  
WHICH CLUB  
HE WANTS  
TO JOIN.

THEY'RE  
PROBABLY  
JUST  
HOPING TO  
USE HIM TO  
STRENGTHEN  
THEIR  
FORCES.

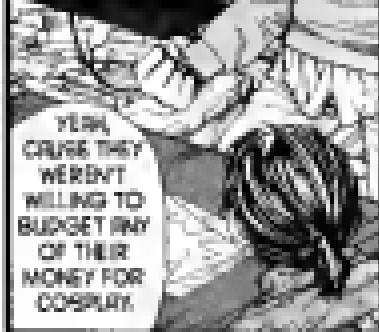
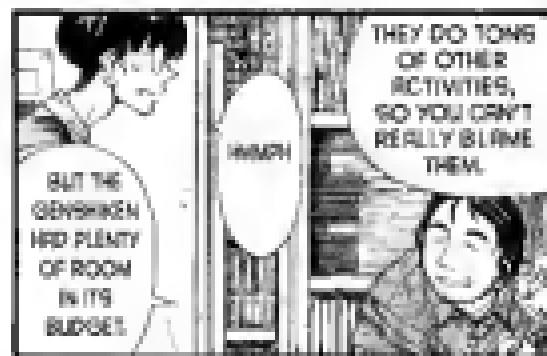
IT'S  
'CAUSE  
HE'S SO  
GOOD-  
LOOKING

KONOBU  
FROM THE  
SHMEE CLUB  
CAME UP TO  
ME AND  
SNO...

YEAH,  
BUT A  
SECOND RGO...

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
MEAN?

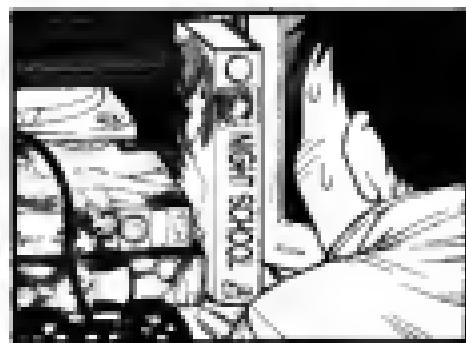






"WHAT I  
LACK IS  
THE  
COURAGE  
TO ACCEPT  
MYSELF FOR  
WHO I AM."







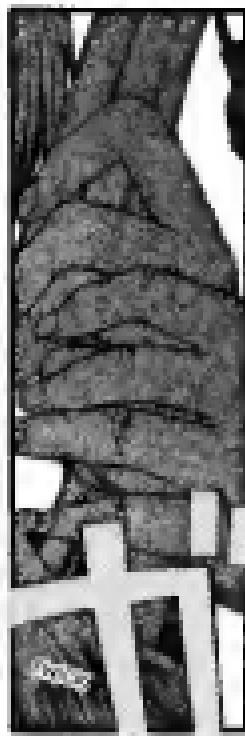










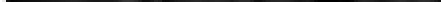












# KOSAKA MAKOTO

## PROFILE

MAKOTO  
KOUSAKA

BORN FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>  
BLOOD TYPE B

FAVORITE

ANIME

THE MYSTERIOUS  
ADVENTURES OF DR.DR

FAVORITE

ANIME

Pretty much  
anything

FAVORITE

VIDEO GAMES

FULL ARMOR

STREET MASTER 2

DRACULINA HUNTER

FAVORITE

FIGHT GAME

CHARACTERS

ANETTE

SAKAMOTO

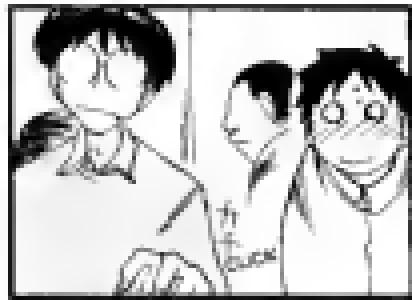
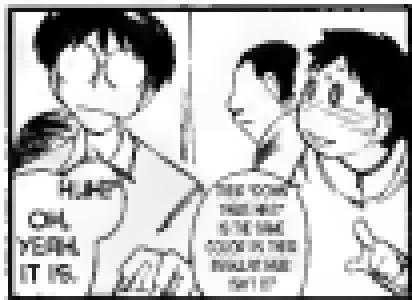
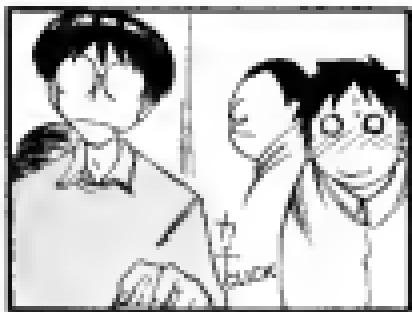
TAKKIN

GOKI

DO NOT USE THE  
CHARACTERS OR ART  
(DO NOT NECESSARILY  
REFLECT THE AUTHOR'S TASTE).



## Calm Down



## The Perfect Choice





CHAPTER 3 -

## THE MOST MEANINGLESS STRATEGY IN HISTORY











THE BOTTOMLESS BAG











IF YOU  
KEEP BEING  
EMBARRASSED,  
YOU'RE ONLY  
GOING  
TO GET OUT

SO,  
WHICH ONE  
SHOULD I GO  
FOR: GAME  
BASED... OR  
PHONE  
BASED...?

I'LL  
RISK  
ONE OF  
THE  
GUYS  
LATER.

I'VE  
HARDLY  
EVER  
PLAYED  
THOSE...

WHICH ONE'S  
NOT SO BAD?  
THEY JUST  
TALKING ABOUT  
THOSE IS  
SO CREEPY  
SOMETHING

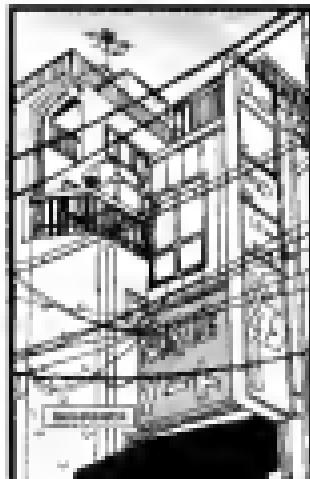










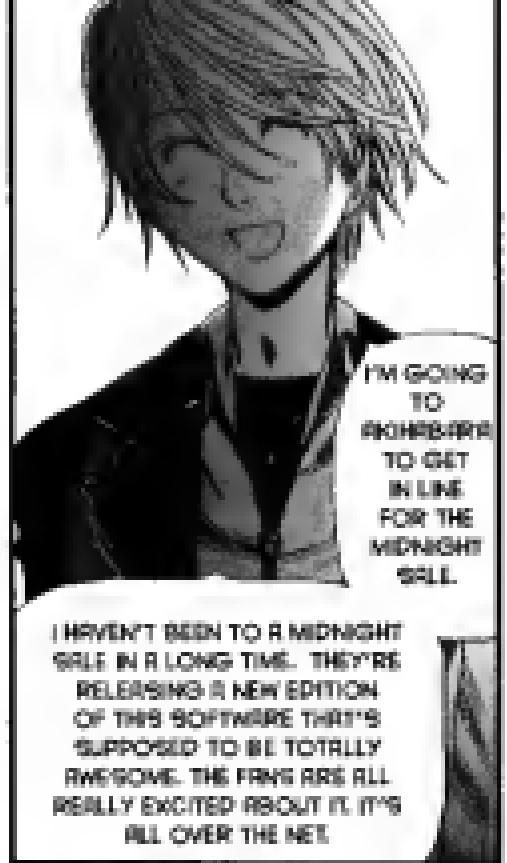


















# HARUNOBU MIDARAME

## PROFILE

### HARUNOBU MIDARAME

BORN FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>

BLOOD TYPE O

#### FAVORITE

#### MANGA

BL-SHOW-HELL-SING

YOTAROO'S 3RD SONG

#### FAVORITE

#### ANIME

MOBILE SUIT T-GRANDGU

DORMIHORAN

YUKOKI

THE ADVENTURES OF

DORA THE SPICE PIRATE

SPRITZEL RAR

#### FAVORITE

#### VIDEO GAMES

THE DIARY OF KIRIGERO

NINJA ADVENTURES

ENCHO

SHINOSH RETURNS

THE OUTLAW KINKIRO

#### FAVORITE

#### FIGHT GAME

CHARACTERS

KONAKO BERETTER

TRURU LIN

PLEASE USE THE  
CHARACTERS DICKS AND  
DO NOT NECESSARILY  
REFLECT THE AUTHOR'S TASTE.



## CAUSE VS EFFECT





CHAPTER 4

GATHER 'ROUND THE ROUND TABLE

IT'S AMAZING  
THAT THESE  
FACES STILL  
RESEMBLE THE  
PRIME CHARACTER  
NO MATTER WHAT  
ANGLE YOU LOOK  
AT THEM FROM

I  
PERSONALLY  
PREFER THESE  
ROUND,  
PUDDY  
FACES.

RECENTLY ANIME  
CHARACTERS'  
FACES ARE  
DRAWN A LOT  
ROUNDER THAN  
THEY USED  
TO BE.

THE NEW  
FACE DESIGN ISN'T  
COMPLETELY  
UNPLEASANT,  
BUT IT'S SO  
POSSIBLY THAT  
THEY TWO  
DON'T  
LOOK

WHEN SHE  
GROWS UP  
IN THIS  
COUNTRY SHE  
RESEMBLES  
EVEN THE  
MEN  
ON THE  
STREET.  
ACTUALLY  
RESEMBLES HER  
BROTHERS OF  
WHICH SHE'S  
CORRECTED

THE  
SIGN  
ON THE  
QUARRY IS  
PERFECT  
FOR  
SHOWING  
OFF THE  
SOFT  
CURVY  
NATURE  
THAT'S  
IN  
HER

RESEMBLES  
SOFTLY WITH THE  
SIGN ON THE  
QUARRY. THAT'S  
WHY SHE'S  
SO SOFTLY  
CURVY.  
ACTUALLY,  
SHE'S SOFTLY  
CURVY.  
ACTUALLY,  
SHE'S SOFTLY  
CURVY.

HER FACE,  
HER BODY,  
EVEN HER NAME,  
"ROX," IS SO  
COMMONPLACE,  
AND YET THE  
FAMILIARITY IS  
BLUING.

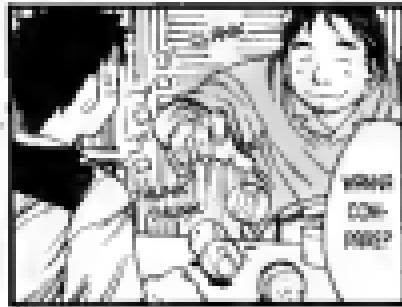
SHY,  
GIRLISH,  
FRESH,  
DOUCHY KIND OF  
PERSONALITY  
THAT'S  
SO SOFTLY  
CURVY.  
ACTUALLY,  
SHE'S SOFTLY  
CURVY.

THIS  
CHARACTER  
MRS  
DEFINITELY  
DESIGNED  
TO HAVE  
MISS  
APPEAL.

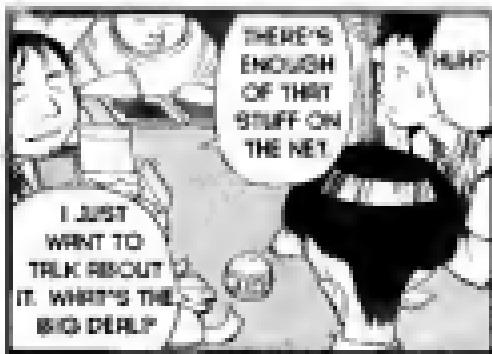
UH-  
HUM.

THIS  
FACIAL WIRE  
MIXED WITH THE  
SIGN ON THE  
QUARRY,  
FRESH,  
SOFTLY  
CURVY,  
SCHOOL UNIFORM,  
AND THAT  
SOFTLY  
CURVY  
CHARACTER'S  
PROFOUND  
MOMENTS OF HER  
SOFTLY  
CURVY.

RESEMBLES  
SOFTLY  
CURVY.  
ACTUALLY,  
SHE'S SOFTLY  
CURVY.

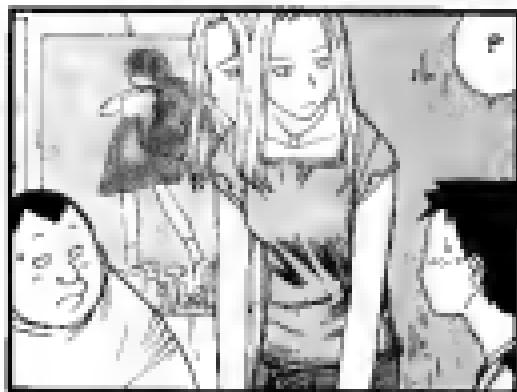














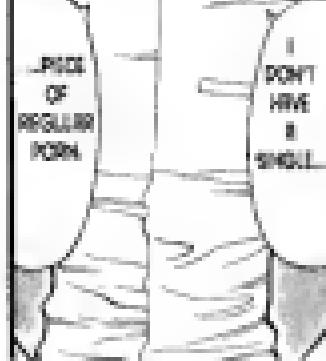
ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING? I CAN STILL HEAR YOU FROM OVER THERE.

ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING? I CAN STILL HEAR YOU FROM OVER THERE.

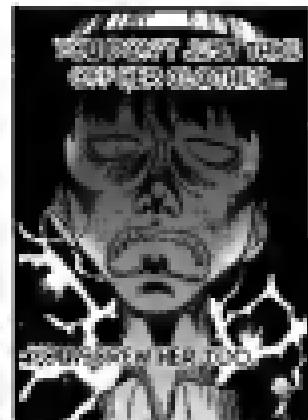


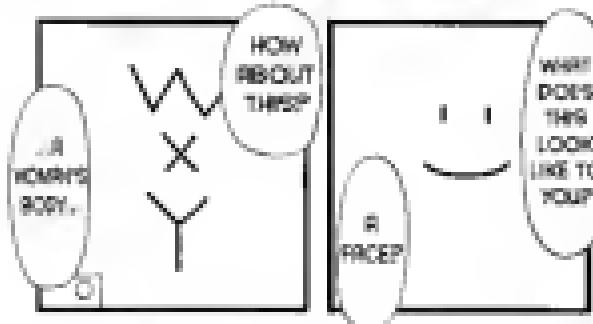


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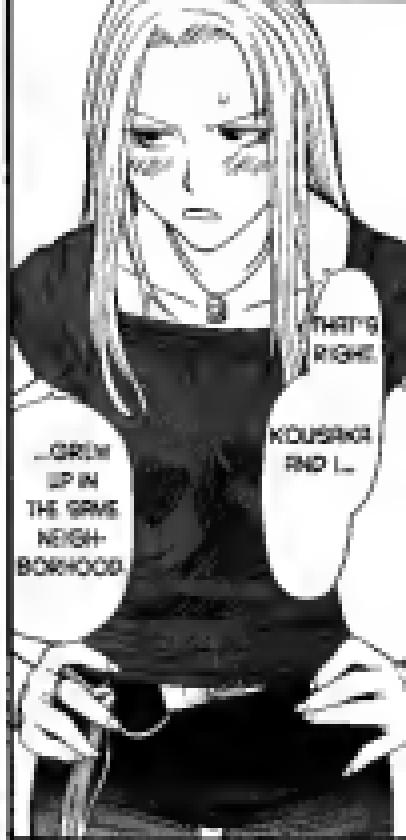


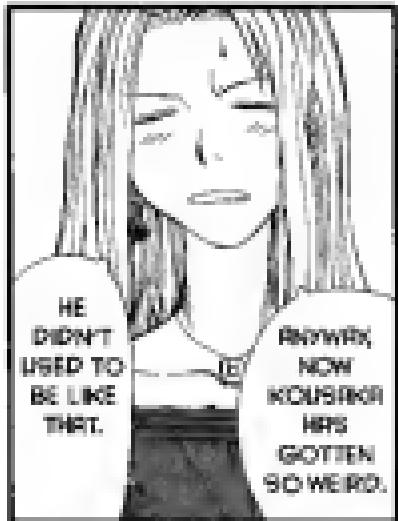
HUMANS ARE CAPABLE OF FINDING A PLEASURE IMAGE IN EVEN THE MOST REPUGNANT DRAWINGS.

























# TANAKA SOUICHIRO

## PROFILE

### SOUICHIRO TANAKA

BIRTHDAY DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>  
BLOOD TYPE AB

FAVORITE MANGA  
THE SEVEN STAR STORIES

FAVORITE ANIME  
RYUNO: THE CASTLE IN  
THE SKY  
CONAN THE BOY FROM THE  
FUTURE

FAVORITE  
VIDEO GAMES  
YUJIRO TACTIC  
THE STORY OF MR. STUDIO

FAVORITE FIGHT GAME  
CHARACTER  
DR. HAYWOOD



# KUGAYAMA MITSUNORI

## PROFILE

### MITSUNORI KUGAYAMA

BIRTHDAY JUNE 29<sup>th</sup>  
BLOOD TYPE A

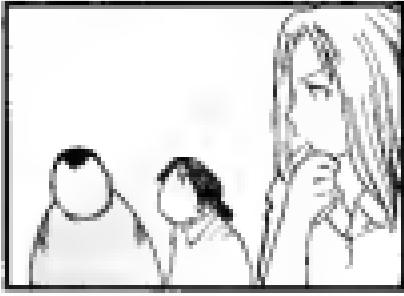
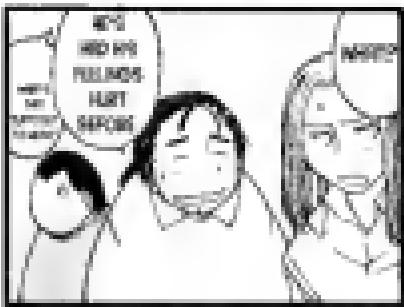
FAVORITE MANGA  
NAMAHIME BALL

FAVORITE ANIME  
RUN WITH THE TIGER  
FAMILY (BEFORE THE THEME  
SONG CHANGED)

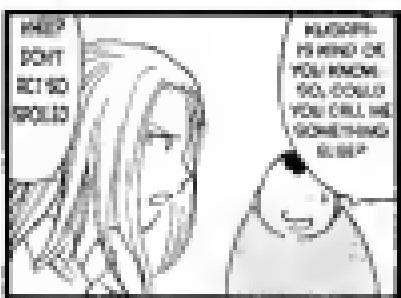
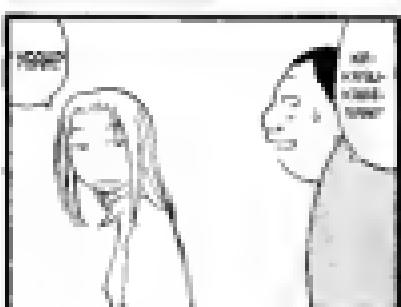
FAVORITE  
VIDEO GAMES  
EXTELL

FAVORITE FIGHT GAME  
CHARACTER  
THE LOVELY YOOGA TSETTE

## A NEW NAME



H.C. FORBES





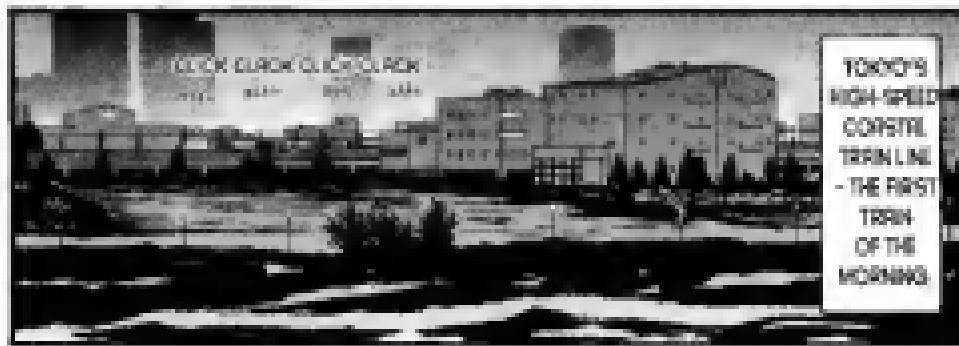
KIRAI STEPPED ABOARD WHAT WAS PERHAPS THE WORLD'S MOST OTAKU-FILLED TRAIN.

...AND HERDED FOR THE BIGGEST EVENT IN THE LIVES OF TOKYO OTAKU: DAY 3 OF THE HUGE SUMMER FAN-ZINE CONVENTION KNOWN AS "COMIC FEST 2002."



CHAPTER 3  
FIGHTING THE CROWD





BECAUSE  
PEOPLE  
STAYED  
THE  
NIGHT.

HOW CAN  
THERE BE  
SO MANY  
PEOPLE IN  
LINE IF WE  
GOT ON  
THE FIRST  
TRAIN?

WELL, WE  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE  
WANTED TO  
GO THAT  
FAR RAHRAH,  
RIGHT?

NO, SHE  
WOULDN'T  
EVEN  
KNOW  
WHAT WAS  
GOING  
ON.

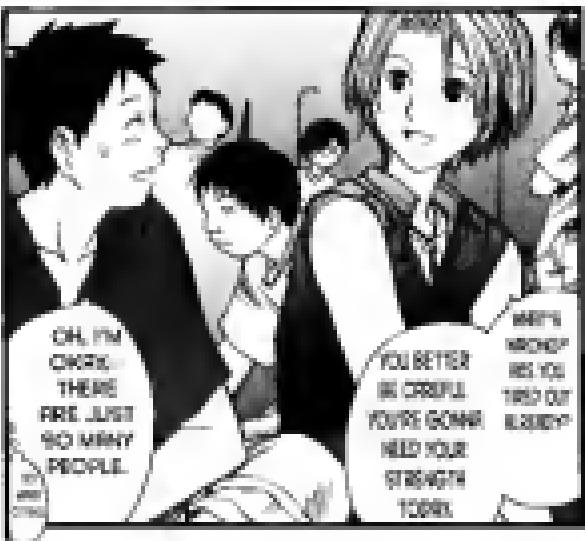
I DON'  
KNOW  
BUT...  
SHE  
WAS  
HERE  
RIGHT  
HOW SHE  
REALLY BE  
LETTING US  
HAVE IT.

YEAH, I  
THOUGHT  
SO TOO.

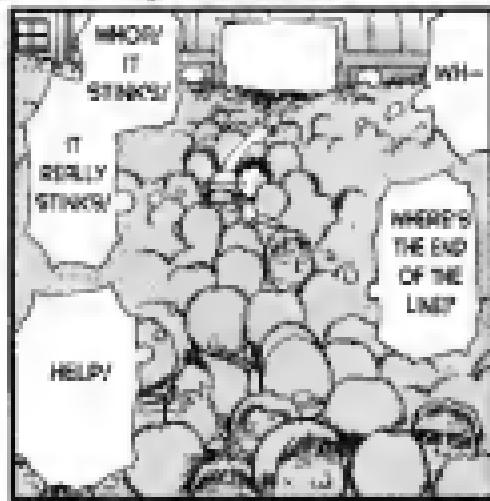
BUT,  
BUT!!  
I THOUGHT  
THAT WASN'T  
ALLOWED!!



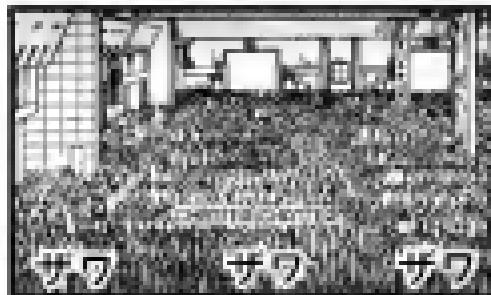
TRAMMEL IS WAITING AT THE WEST EXHIBITION, WHICH IS CLOSER TO THE DOWNTOWN SECTION.

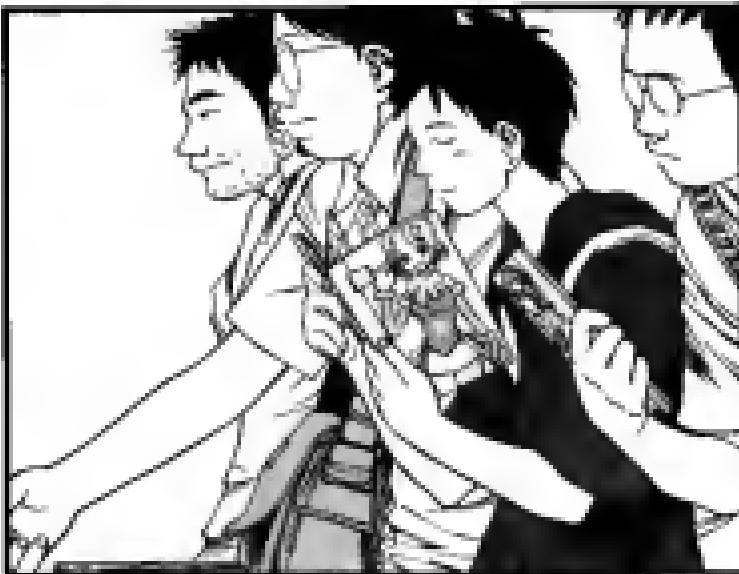


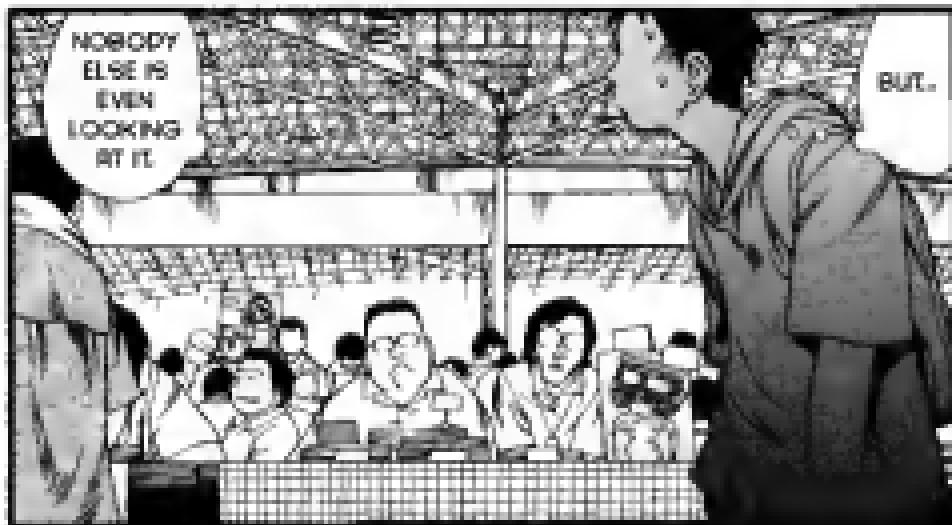
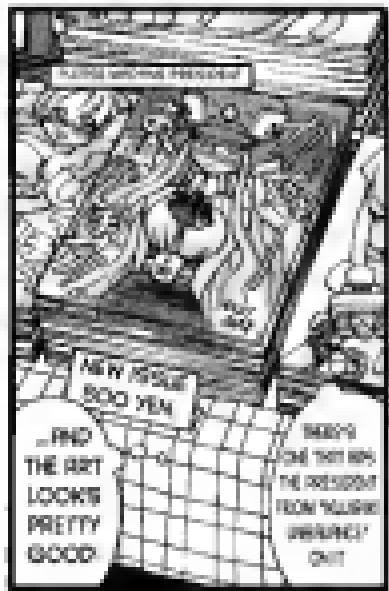


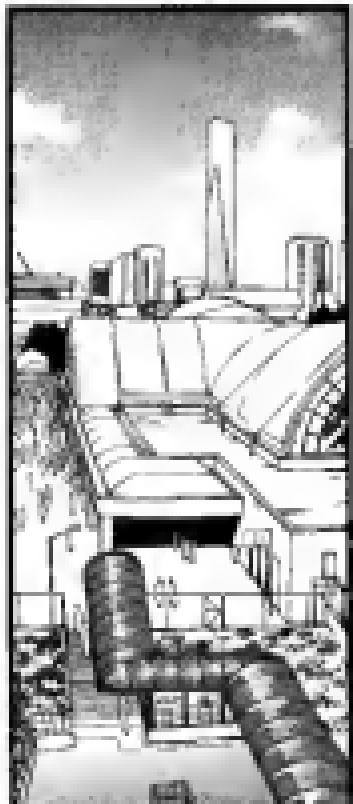




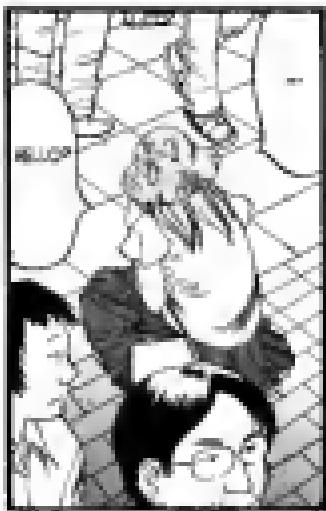














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THE  
GENSHIKEN  
LEADS A  
COMPLETELY  
MEANINGLESS  
EXISTENCE.

IN OTHER  
WORD(S)...

AND THEN  
THERE'S  
TANAKA.  
WITH HIS  
COSPLAY.

HEH...  
COSPLAY...

HEH  
HEH

CONGRATULATIONS,  
TANAKA.  
STAND  
UP AND  
FIGHT.

—BUT ALL  
HE DOES IS  
REPEAT WHAT  
HE'S HEARD  
ON GUARDIA.  
HE DOESN'T  
REALLY  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.

AND  
MIDORIMAE  
THINKS LIKE  
HE'S A REAL  
MILITARY  
OTAKU...

—BUT ALL HE  
DOES IS  
SKETCH  
HE NEVER  
REALLY  
WORKS ON  
ANYTHING  
SERIOUSLY.

THAT'S  
WHY IT'S  
MEMBERS  
ARE ALL A  
BUNCH OF  
HICKS.

KUGARUFUMI  
IS THE ONLY  
ONE WHO  
CAN DRAW.

BUT  
THEN  
THERE'S  
WHY'S  
HIS  
NAME...

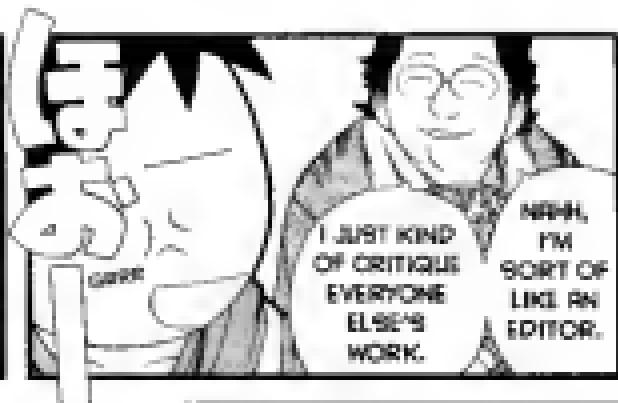
WHAT'S  
THE DEAL  
WITH  
THIS  
GUY...



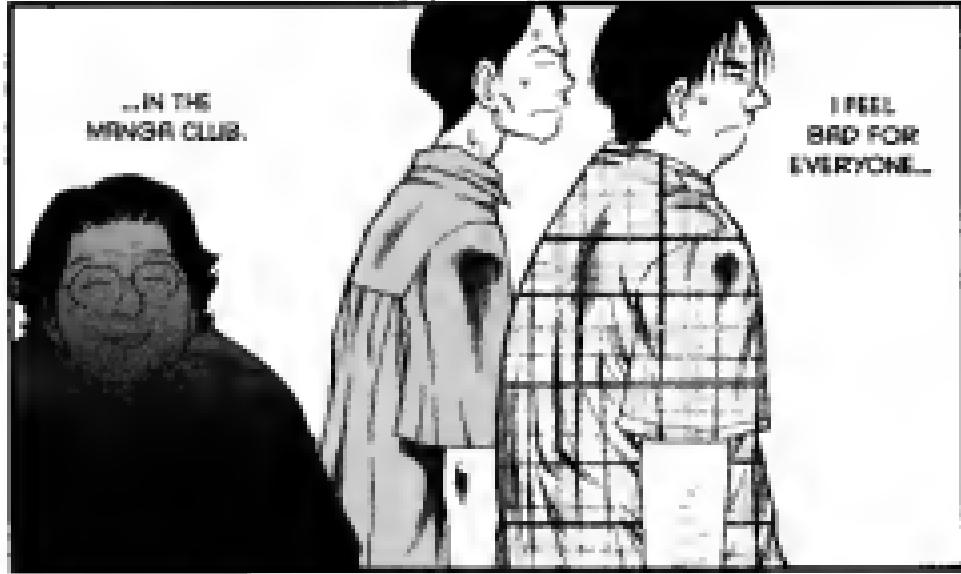
KOUSEKOU-  
KOU?

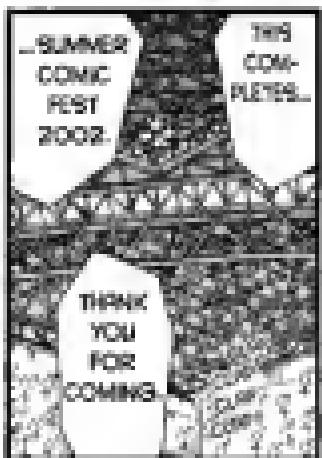


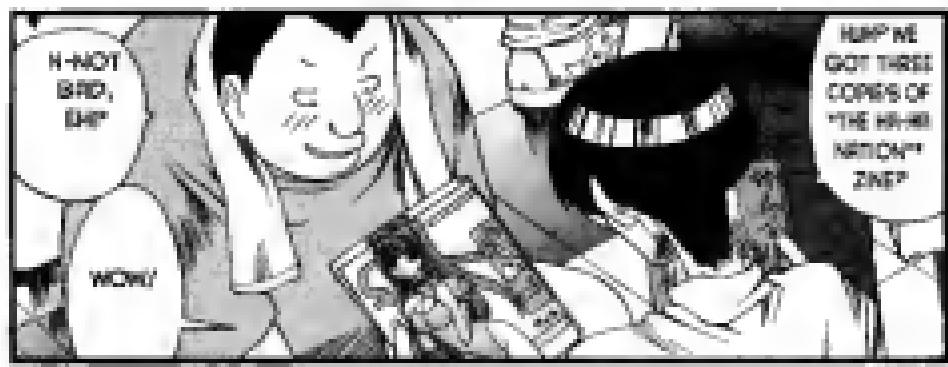
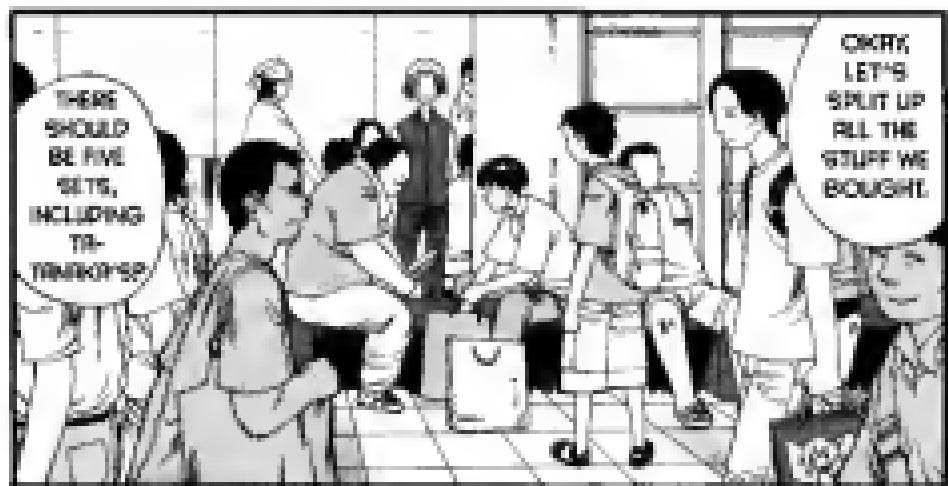




HMM,  
I'M  
SORT OF  
LIKE AN  
EDITOR.











# KASUKABE

## PROFILE

**SAKI  
KASUKABE**  
BIRTHDAY JULY 19<sup>th</sup>  
BLOOD TYPE AB

FAVORITE  
MANGA  
"LET'S GO" RAI  
JUNIOR HIGH  
ROYALTY IN MOTION

FAVORITE  
ANIME  
NONE

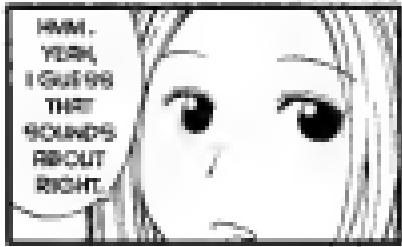
FAVORITE GAME  
"LIFE" (THE BOARD GAME)

FAVORITE  
FIGHT GAME  
CHARACTER  
MAY WEY YOU PISKING ME  
THAT?

PLEASE USE THE  
Character's Character Name  
DO NOT REREFERENCE  
REFRACT THE AUTHOR'S TRUTH



## DIFFERENT STROKES

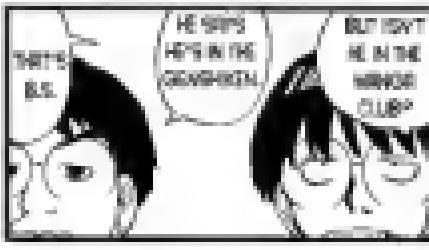


## THIN BOAIS...



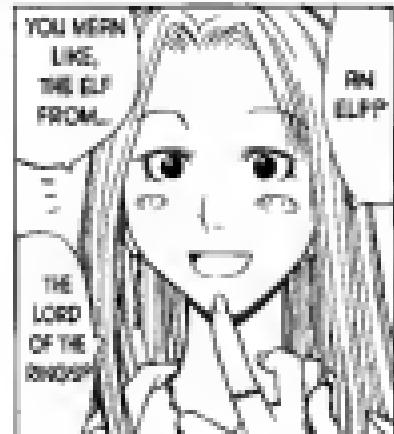


CHAPTER 6 -  
**THE SECRET ROOM**





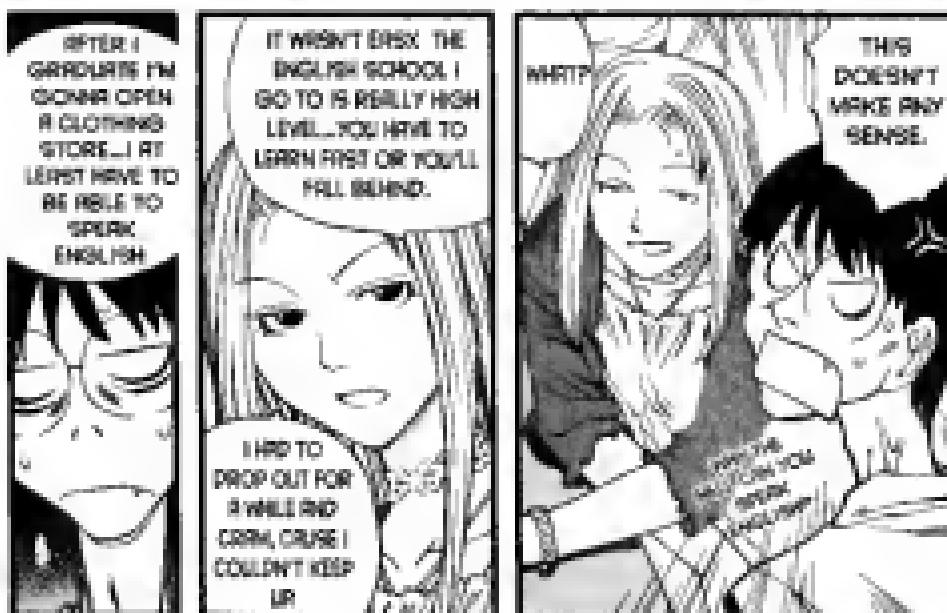








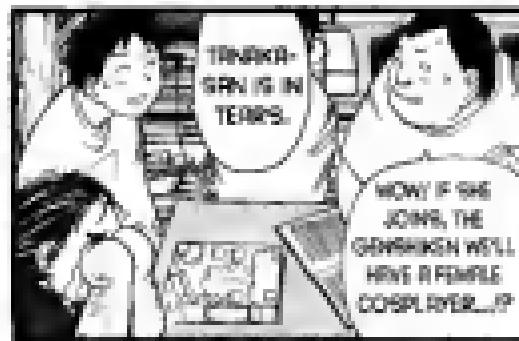




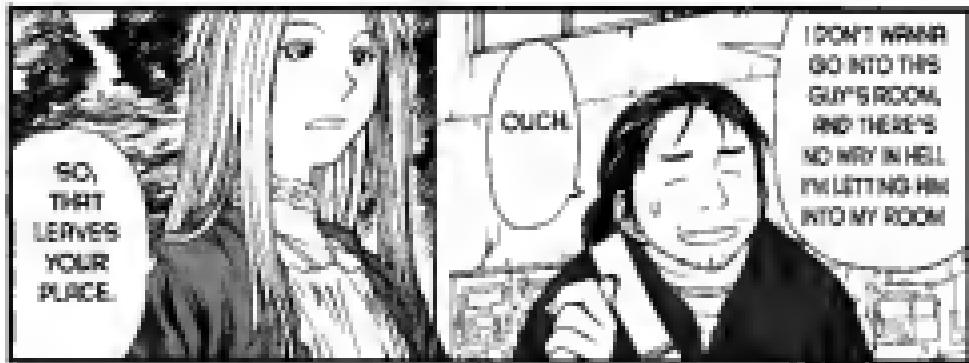


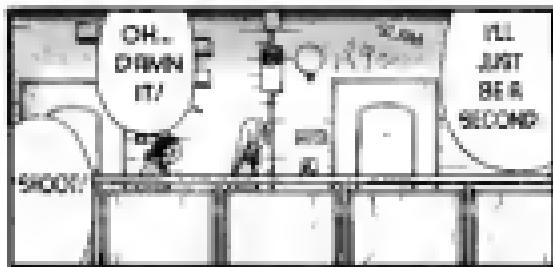


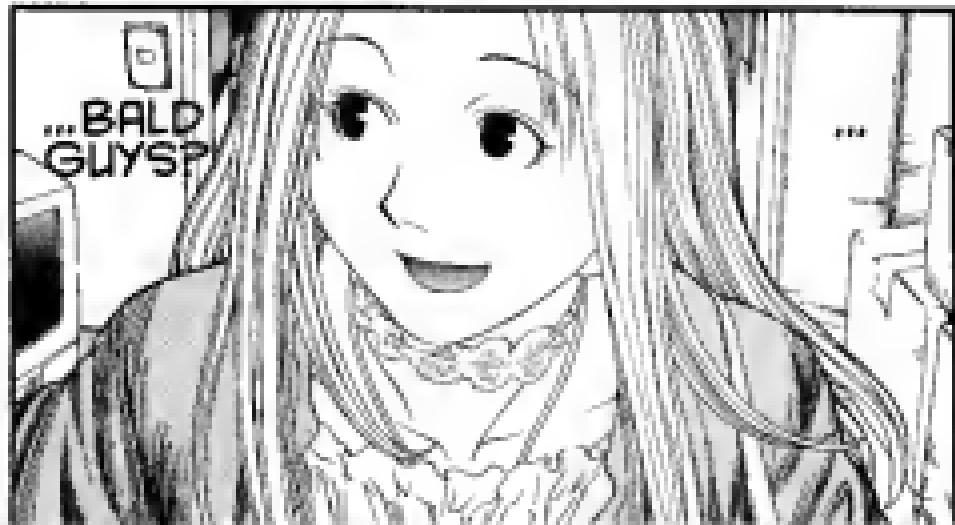


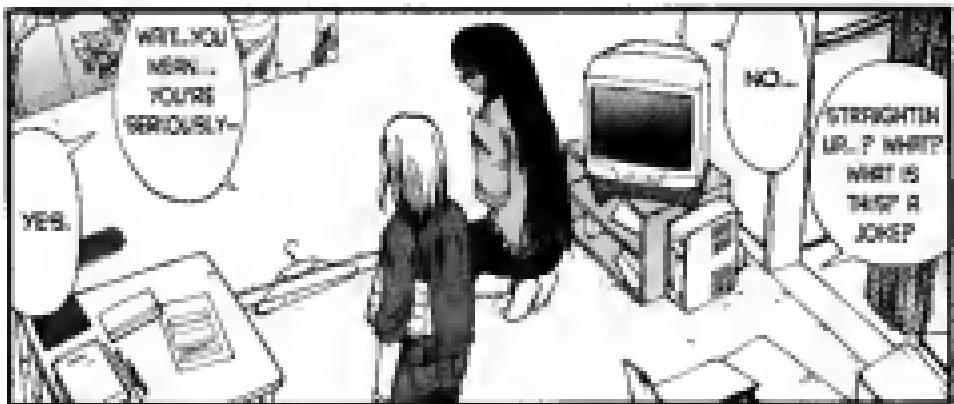














THE  
SORRY  
THING  
IS...

THAT  
YOU FEEL LIKE  
YOU HAVE TO  
PUSH PEOPLE  
AWAY JUST SO  
YOU CAN HIDE  
THAT PART OF  
YOURSELF

I KNOW  
SOMEONE  
WHO ISN'T  
EXACTLY THAT  
BUT THEY  
END UP  
NOT HAVING  
ANY FRIENDS.



ISN'T  
THAT WHY  
YOU LEFT  
THE  
DOOR  
OPEN?

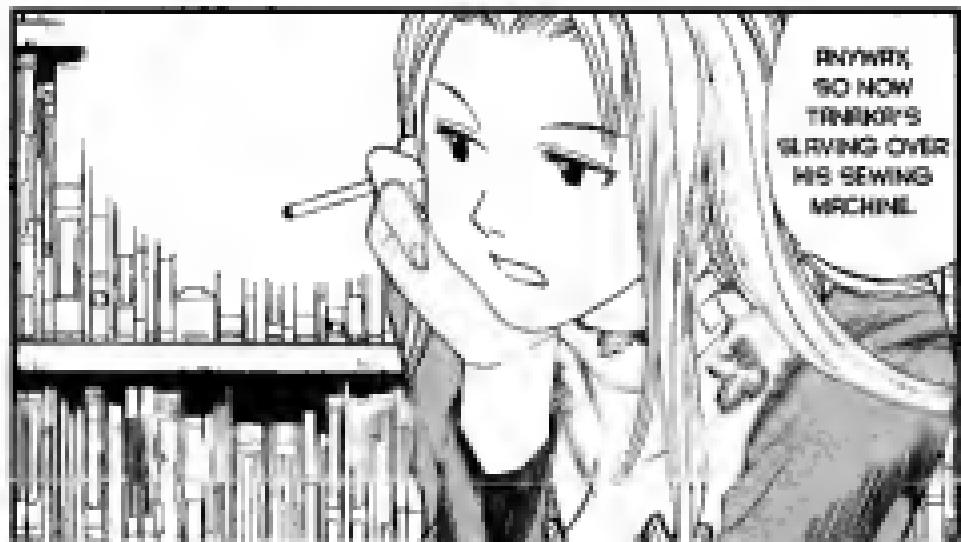
I MEAN, THE  
TRUTH IS,  
YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR OTHER  
PEOPLE  
WITH THE  
SAME TRUTH,  
RIGHT?

IT'S NOTHING  
TO BE  
ASHAMED OF  
YOU'RE JUST  
LOOKING  
FOR FRIENDS,  
RIGHT?

WHY DO YOU FEEL  
LIKE YOU HAVE TO  
HIDE IT? I MEAN  
IF THAT'S WHAT  
YOU'RE INTO,  
THEN THAT'S WHAT  
YOU'RE INTO.









END OF CHAPTER 6

KANAKO OHNO

PROFILE

KANAKO  
OHNO

BIRTHDAY JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
BLOOD TYPE O

FAVORITE  
ANIME  
THE SILENT MAID

FAVORITE  
ANIME  
MOBILE SUIT Z GUNDAM

FAVORITE  
VIDEO GAME  
SAMURAI SPIRIT (ORIGINAL  
VERSION)

MEASUREMENTS  
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE  
WHO HAS TO WRITE THIS?

FAVORITE  
FIGHT GAME  
CHARACTERS  
JUPPEI-CHAN  
KANNY HISTOIGA  
EARTHQUAKE NINJA  
ZANGULIA

PLEASE READ THE  
CHARACTER'S CHOICE IF AND  
(DO NOT RECOMMEND  
ANYONE TO THE AUTHOR'S FRIENDS)

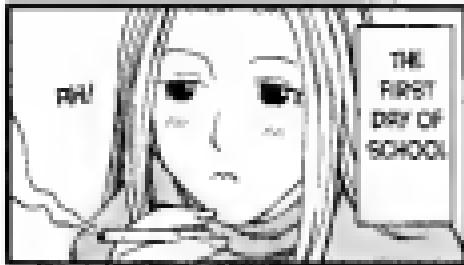


## SPOILED



## SELF DESTRUCTION





卷之三

## TO HELL WITH DESTINY





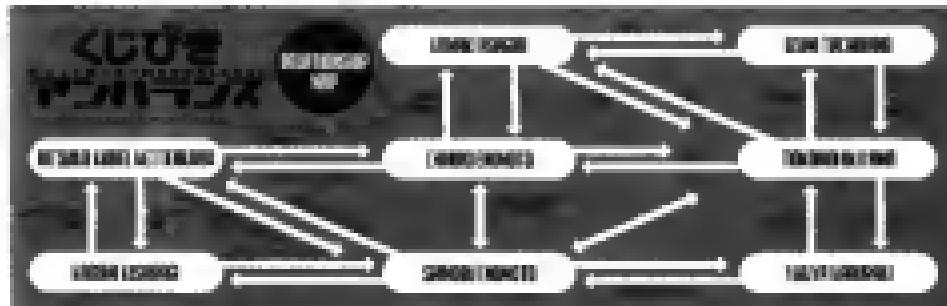
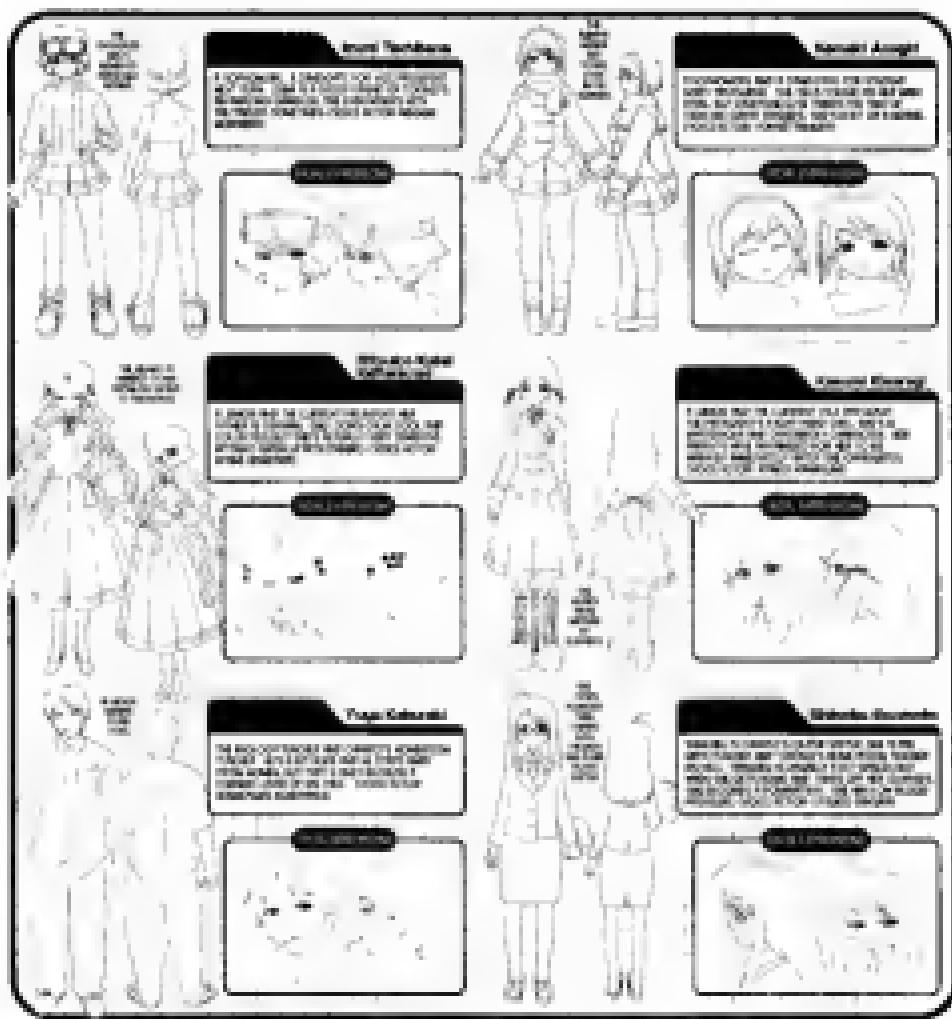
# くじびき アンバランス

## THE NEW WORLD OF CHARACTERS

REVUE ROM

ANSWER



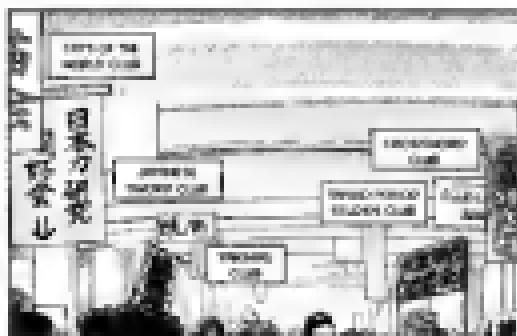


# Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

## *College Circles, page 4*

Social life in Japanese colleges revolves around participation in interest groups. The activities of these groups, also known as circles, can range from sports to academic studies to anime.



## *Yakiniku, page 4*

Yakiniku is Korean-style barbecued beef. Yum!

## *Otaku, page 7*

An "otaku" is someone with an obsession of some kind, generally with manga or anime.

## *FF, page 19*

"FF" probably refers to the game "Final Fantasy."

## *Tenku No Shiro Rapyuta, page 20*

*Tenku No Shiro Rapyuta, The Castle in the Sky*, is a Hayao Miyazaki anime film.

## *Fan-zines, page 26*

Kanji is looking at a doujinshi fan-zine. These fan-zines are written by fans using popular manga characters. The doujinshis are usually a group effort written by college manga club members like the Genshiken guys. They often contain graphic homosexual and adult content.



## *Gundam, page 32*

Kanji is quoting the anime series "Gundam."

## *Soboro donburi, page 38*

Soboro donburi is minced chicken and egg over rice.

## *Hommestise: Royal Space Force, page 43*

Tanaka and Kugayama are referring to the anime film *wings of Hommestise: Royal Space Force*.

## *Hokaben, page 48*

Hokaben is short for Hoka Hoka Tei, a popular bento (boxed lunch) chain.

## *Akihabara, page 62*

Akihabara is the electronics shopping district in Tokyo.

## *The JR, page 63*

JR stands for Japan Railway. It's the largest of all the Japanese railroads.



## *A tight squeeze, page 68*

Some stores in Tokyo are so small that they can only allow a certain number of customers to enter at a time.



## *Pornographic fan-zines, page 71*

Usually pornographic fan-zines take characters from regular games or manga and put them in pornographic situations. Kanji is puzzled that someone would make a fan-zine based on something that was already pornographic to start with.



## *Soramimi Hour, page 78*

"Soramimi Hour" is a musical segment on a popular comedy show called Tomori Club.

## *Kugapii, page 94*

Kugapii is Saki's nickname for Kugayama.

## *Why so formal?, page 96*

Kanji uses formal Japanese when speaking to Saki.

## *Mahjong Takes Off, page 98*

Mahjong video games, in which a girl removes a piece of clothing after every winning move, are very popular in Japan.



## *Shunga prints, page 100*

Shunga were popular, erotic wood block prints from the Edo period of Japanese history.

## *The Obon holiday, page 125*

The Comic-fest is probably happening during the "Obon" holiday. Obon is a special summer holiday when people visit the graves of their deceased relatives.



## *Yearly festivals, page 145*

Japanese schools hold festivals once a year. During these festivals, school clubs usually engage in an activity to raise money and solicit new members. Popular activities include food stalls, cafés, haunted houses, and dance parties.

## *Back to school—in Spring, page 150*

The Japanese school year begins in April. Since Kansko is transferring from a school in the U.S., she's starting school in September.

### *Hari森, page 168*

A *hari森* is a paper fan made by rolling up sheets of paper. A famous Osaka comedian used to hit people with a *hari森*. Apparently it's an Osaka thing.



### *Afternoon, page 169*

"Genshiken" originally appeared in the magazine *Afternoon*, which is known as a hardcore otaku magazine.

# Honorifics

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more importantly, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Riuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

**~san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

**~sama:** This is one level higher than "~~san" and is used to confer great respect.

**~dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "~~sama" and confers utmost respect.

**-kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

**-chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

**Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid" or "squat."

**Sempai:** This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

**Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

**Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

**Obanchi:** Usually forgotten in these lists, but perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can also be very insulting.